

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 AID-05 /076 W

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R 140825Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5764

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

DOD/ISA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3397

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SN

SUBJECT: F5 PURCHASE BY GOS

REF: USDAO SINGAPORE 130819Z JULY

1. REFTEL IS A REQUEST FOR USAF LETTER OF OFFER FOR TWENTY-ONE F5 AIRCRAFT. EMBASSY WISHES TO ENDORSE THIS PROJECT AND URGE POSITIVE SUPPORT FOR RAPID PROCESSING IN WASHINGTON.

2. WHILE WE REALIZE THAT LARGE FMS SALES AND PARTICULARLY F5'S ARE A MATTER OF SOME CONCERN AT THIS TIME, AND WE ARE NOT SURE AS TO THE EXACT STAGE OF RECENT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION RE LARGE FMS TRANSACTIONS, WE FEEL THIS SALE IS WORTHY OF STOUT EXECUTIVE SUPPORT FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. THE F5 DECISION REPRESENTS THE CULMINATION OF A TWO-YEAR LONG GOS STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT FOR THE 1980'S. ALL AVAILABLE US AND FOREIGN COMPETITION WAS STUDIED, COSTED, AND ANALYZED BEFORE A DECISION.

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B. THE GOS HAS CAREFULLY ANALYZED ITS COMPETING

ECONOMIC AND DEFENSE NEEDS PRIOR TO OPTING FOR THIS RATHER LARGE EXPENDITURE. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, GOS RESERVES EASILY ENABLE GOS TO AFFORD THIS LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE.

C. ACQUISITION OF THE F5 WILL PROMOTE COMMANALITY OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT IN ASEAN, AND PARTICULARLY BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA IN THE INTEGRATED AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM (IADS) UNDER FPDA. WHILE WE MAY HAVE LITTEL INFLUENCE UPON ANY FUTURE ASEAN SECURITY COOPERATION, IT WOULD SEEM THAT COMMONALITY OF MAJOR US WEAPONS SYSTEMS IS ONE VALID OBJECTIVE.

3. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, THIS EMBASSY HAS ANALYZED, THOROUGHLY AS POSSIBLE, WHAT MILITARY EQUIPMENT FITS WITHIN THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF "LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS" OF SINGAPORE. IN OUR MIND THIS APPROXIMATE LEVEL OF SUPERSONIC AIR DEFENSE ORIENTED AIRCRAFT FITS WITHIN THAT NEED, AND THE F5 IS THE MOST SUITABLE OF THOSE AIRCRAFT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE. THE ONE SQUADRON INVOLVED SHOULD NOT AFFECT THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THIS REGION ADVERSELY.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT LEND MAXIMUM SUPPORT TO EARLIEST PRODUCTION OF AN F5 ACQUISITION PROGRAM FOR SINGAPORE.
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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